MERI Waste Acceptance Policy

MERI (Madison Environmental Resourcing Inc. / Madison Environmental Recovery Inc.)

MERI policy requires compliance with all applicable regulations regarding the collection, transportation, and treatment of regulated medical waste. Federal Department of transportation (DOT) regulations require the generator of regulated medical waste to certify that the packaging and documentation of transported regulated medical waste complies with DOT regulations regarding waste classification, packaging, labeling, and shipping documentation. To ensure that neither MERI nor the generator of regulated medical waste violates applicable regulations, it is imperative that all parties understand the rules regarding proper identification, classification, segregation, and packaging of regulated medical waste. The purpose of this policy is to summarize the minimum requirements for preparing your medical waste for collection, transportation, and treatment. Additional facility or state specific waste acceptance policies may apply based on permit specifications. Contact your MERI representative for further information.

Regulated Medical Waste

MERI accepts medical waste generated in a broad range of medical, diagnostic, therapeutic and research activities. The term "medical waste" includes biohazardous, biomedical, infectious, or regulated medical waste as defined under federal, state, and local laws, rules regulations and guidelines. Except as defined by specific state regulations, this **excludes** RCRA hazardous waste pharmaceuticals, all DEA scheduled drugs including controlled substances, bulk chemotherapy, waste containing mercury or other heavy metals, batteries of any type, cauterizers, non-infectious dental waste, chemicals such as solvents, reagents, corrosives, or ignitable materials classified as hazardous waste under the Federal and State EPA regulations. In addition, MERI **cannot accept** bulk liquids, radioactive materials or complete human remains (including heads, torsos, and fetuses.) MERI **cannot accept** these excluded materials packaged as regulated medical waste. All lab waste or materials which contain or have potential to contain infectious substances arising from those agents listed under 42 CFR 72.3 are strictly prohibited from medical waste by federal law. Separate protocol and packaging requirements apply for the disposal of non-hazardous pharmaceuticals. Hazardous pharmaceutical and chemical waste streams will be accepted on a case-by-case basis. Please contact MERI for further details and packaging instructions.

Waste Segregation and Packaging

The generator is solely responsible for properly segregating, packaging, and labeling regulated medical waste. Proper segregation and packaging reduce the potential for accidental release of the contents and exposure to employees and the public. DOT regulations require (49 CFR 173.197) that all packages of regulated medical waste be prepared for transport and containers meeting the following requirements: 1) rigid; 2) leak resistant; 3) impervious to moisture; 4) of sufficient strength to prevent tearing or bursting under normal conditions of use and handling; 5) sealed to prevent leakage during transport; and 6) puncture resistant for sharps. All regulated medical waste must be accompanied by a properly completed shipping document (See 49 CFR 172.202)

Management of Non-Conforming Waste

As required by regulation and company policy, MERI employees may refuse containers that are non-conforming because of their contents or if they are improperly packaged, leaking, damaged or likely to create a risk of exposure to employees or the public. Any waste found to be non-conforming to MERI's Waste Acceptance Policy identified in route to, or at a MERI's location, may be returned to the generator for proper packaging and disposal, or may be rerouted for appropriate destruction; this may include improperly marked regulated medical waste which should have been identified for incineration (i.e., pathological, chemotherapy or non-hazardous pharmaceuticals.) Proper segregation and packaging are essential to ensure compliance and safe handling, collection, transportation, and treatment of regulated medical waste.

Accepted Regulated Medical Waste

- Sharps - Means any object contaminated with a pathogen or that may become contaminated with a pathogen through handling or during transportation and capable of cutting or penetrating skin or a packaging material. Sharps include needles, syringes, scalpels, broken glass, cultures slides, culture dishes, broken capillary tubes, broken rigid plastic, and exposed ends of dental wires.
- Regulated Medical Waste or Clinical Waste or Bio Medical Waste - Means a waste or reusable material derived from the medical treatment of an animal or human, which includes diagnosis and immunization, or from biomedical research, which includes the production and testing of biological products.

Accepted Waste Which Must be Identified and Segregated for Proper Treatment and Disposal

- Trace Chemotherapy Contaminated Waste - RCRA empty drug vials, syringes and needles, spill kits, IV tubing and bags, contaminated gloves and gowns, and related materials as defined in applicable laws, rules, regulations, or guidelines.
- Pathological Waste - Human or animal body parts, organs, tissues, and surgical specimen (decanted of formaldehyde, formalin or other preservatives as required per hazardous waste rules.)
- Non-RCRA Pharmaceuticals - Must be characterized and certified as non-RCRA hazardous material by the generator. Excludes all DEA scheduled drugs, including controlled substances. (1)
- Bulk Chemotherapy Waste.
- Mercury-Containing Dental Waste–Non-contact and contact amalgam and products, chairside traps, amalgam sludge or vacuum pump filters, extracted teeth with mercury fillings and empty amalgam capsules.
- Any Mercury Containing Material or Devices - Any mercury thermometers, Sphygmomanometers, lab, or medical devices.
- RCRA Hazardous Pharmaceutical Waste.
- Chemicals–Formaldehyde, formalin, acids, alcohol, waste oil, solvents, reagents, fixer developer, fluorescein.
- Compressed Gas Cylinder's, Canisters, Inhalers and Aerosol Cans.
- Hazardous or Universal Waste- Any other medical waste determined by Federal or State EPA regulations including, but not limited to, batteries, bulbs, heavy metals, etc.

(1) Consult a MERI representative for a list of specific requirements.

Waste Not Accepted by MERI

- Untreated category A infectious substances.
- Complete Human Remains (including heads, full torsos, and fetuses).
- DEA Federal and State controlled substances.
- Radioactive Waste - Any container with a radioactivity level that exceeds regulatory or permitted limits.

For additional information on container and labeling requirements, contact MERI.

Contact MERI:
608-257-7652 or info@meriinc.com

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